

Restore Council
February 9, 2015
Milton, Florida

Present: Chairman Lane Lynchard, and members Don Salter, Rob Williamson, Shon Owens, Brian Watkins, Dave Robau, Tony Alexander, Donna Tucker, Carole Tebay, Cal Bodenstein, and Buzz Eddy. Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), County Engineer (Roger Blaylock) and County Attorney (Roy Andrews).

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the January 12, 2015 meeting minutes.

Lynchard said the first part of this meeting will be the business of the Local Restore Council and then the pre-application workshop.

Update on NRDA, RESTORE, Gulf Consortium, Other

Jeff Helms (Atkins North America, Inc.) gave a power point presentation to the Council regarding an update on the Restore process (Attachment in file). He said the BP trial is over however the individual lawyers can file briefs until April. Helms said he does not expect a ruling until this summer.

Lynchard said the Gulf Consortium acquired a consultant at its January 21st meeting in Tallahassee. He said the consultant laid out their plan for developing criteria and the implementation plan for the state. Lynchard said this plan is very similar to the one that this Council has followed. He said this tells him that this Council has been doing the right thing to this point.

Helms said the technical team has been getting emails requesting an extension regarding the project submittal deadline. He said the team met and are making a recommendation to extend the deadline. Lynchard said he feels extending the deadline three weeks is a good recommendation.

Lynchard moved approval without objection to extend the proposal period, by three weeks, from March 13-April 3rd.

Helms said staff will get the appropriate information to the public through the website and through the media. He said there was discussion at the Council's last meeting regarding the technical team members. Helms said technical team will be adding some of the Planning Departments staff into the process. He said Andrews has indicated that the technical team will need to advertise and hold some project scoring meetings. He said he feels it will be beneficial for the technical team to create a matrix while reviewing the projects submitted and to also look for state and local grant opportunities. Lynchard said he feels this is a great idea. He said this will increase the opportunity for projects to receive funding.

Helms said after the April 3rd deadline, the technical team will begin to review and grade proposals. He said in the May/June time period, the Council will review the grading.

Helms gave an overview of the Restore process for those present in the audience.

Sheila Harris (Grants Coordinator) gave an overview to the audience, regarding the request for proposal requirements (Attachment in file). She said any previously submitted proposals, to the county's website or any of the other state databases, must be re-submitted through the new portal to be considered for funding.

Thomas Brown said he wants to submit a septic tank to sewage system project. He asked if he supplies the design will this be considered leveraging. Helms said yes. He said he feels anything that is contributed to a project with monetary value is leveraging. Helms said Brown should work with the utility authority of the jurisdiction.

Helen Wigarsma asked for clarification in regards to the county implementing a project. Helms asked Wigarsma if her organization has a history of handling and implementing

federal funds. Wigarsma said no. Helms said he recommends this project being implemented through the county. Harris said the county has the ability to sub grant awards.

Williamson said there may be people in the audience today that are looking to bring forward a project that Santa Rosa County is already putting forward. He said staff is trying to pull up a list of the county projects that are going to be submitted internally. Williamson said this list will also be placed on the county website.

Kyle Holley said he feels the April 3rd deadline may not give enough time to demonstrate public support for those submitting projects. Helms said at some point the line has to be drawn on the process. Lynchard said the TDC (Tourist Development Council) may want to schedule a special meeting, between now and the application deadline, to consider the proposed projects. Holley said the non-governmental organizations, who are focused on community development and have the ability to handle federal funds, would like to see the list of the existing projects that may be submitted internally, as soon as possible.

Rick Delp (Baskerville and Donovan) asked Harris for clarification in regards to previously submitted applications to the state, when DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) was accepting applications. Harris said she wants to make sure that those that may have submitted a project previously, does not assume their project will show up on the radar unless it is submitted in this cycle.

Sonya Negley said the federal government does not require an applicant to have had a previous federal grant and to have demonstrated grant fund management. Helms said the technical team would like to see some level of confidence that the recipient of funds has the capability of implementing the funds. Negley asked if staff feels that scoring the incomplete proposals may be a disadvantage to those who submitted complete and thorough proposals. Helms said the technical team is not here to discourage and he feels all proposals should be graded.

Ira Mae Bruce said she has worked with Holley Navarre Water System, some time ago, to extend the sewer lines from Navarre through Holley. She asked if she should go through the Holley Navarre Water System to present this project. Helms said yes.

Jessica Koelsh (National Wildlife Federation) asked if the technical team or the Board of Commissioners will be deciding the allocation among the categories. Lynchard said the Local Restore Council will develop the multi-year implementation plan and then this will go before the Board of Commissioner for review and approval. He said at this point there is no set amount or proportion for each particular category. Lynchard said funding should depend on the merit of the projects.

Thomas Brown asked how long funds will be available, if he is also pursuing other sources. Lynchard said this is a multi-year implementation plan and it is subject to revision.

Grady Swann asked if he should submit one application or two, considering he has a single project that satisfies two different categories. Helms said he recommends submitting two different proposals, for ultimate grading.

Robert Boston said according to the grading criteria, if an applicant checks more than two categories, the scoring is higher than submitting a separate project only being scored for one category.

Joe Rector asked if one has a project that may qualify for funding from another source will one be able to still apply for a project to get funding from this pot to be able to use as leverage. Helms said yes. He said he feels this will meet the leverage criteria as long as it is a reasonable project. Lynchard said this is what he would like to see, applying for Restore funds and leveraging that against other funds. He said if the county can work out some mechanism to partner with NFWF and get these projects into other grant sources, then that stretches the local dollars.

Harris said restore@santarosa.fl.gov is the county's email address for questions.

Lynchard said the Local Restore Council will try to have another informal "Q & A" session at the March 9th meeting.

Lynchard referred to a power point slide displaying the list of county Restore submittals as of January 8th. He said this list will also be placed on the county webpage.

Robau asked if vertical construction projects are required to meet the LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification, since these are federal funds. Helms said he will look into this. He said infrastructure projects must also be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible and meet certain criteria under existing federal guidelines.

Lynchard said the next Local Restore Council meeting is March 9th.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

By: Lane Lynchard, Chairman